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Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

SEP 15 1998

Division
CC DKT 96-40

RECEIVED

SEP 18 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. George F. Manser, Jr.
670 Equitation Lane
Felton, DE 19943-2728

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Dear Mr. Manser:

Thank you for your letter to President Clinton regarding a "telephone tax" or fee that may be added to some consumers' telephone bills by carriers to recover their contributions to the universal service support mechanisms. The White House has asked me to respond to your inquiry.

On May 7, 1997, the Commission adopted a first Report and Order to implement the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendations on universal service as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act). The Commission established universal service support mechanisms that fulfill Congress's goal, as stated in Section 254 of the 1996 Act, of ensuring that affordable, quality telecommunications services are available to all American consumers, including low income consumers and those located in high cost, rural, and insular areas. In addition, these mechanisms implement Congress's mandate to ensure the nation's classrooms and libraries receive access to the vast array of educational resources that are accessible through the telecommunications network. These support systems also will link health care providers located in rural areas to urban medical centers so that patients living in rural America will have access, through the telecommunications network, to the same advanced diagnostic and other medical services that are enjoyed in urban communities.

The 1996 Act requires all telecommunications carriers that provide interstate telecommunications services to contribute on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to universal service. The Commission implemented this statutory provision by requiring all such telecommunications carriers to contribute to the universal service support mechanisms. Neither Congress, nor the Commission, requires such carriers to pass this contribution on to their customers. To the contrary, carriers decide how and to what extent they recover their contributions. Carriers, however, may not mislead customers as to how they recover contributions and may only recover an equitable share from any particular customer.

The Commission is monitoring the universal service support mechanisms and their impact on telephone ratepayers. This issue will be carefully reviewed as the support mechanisms are administered.

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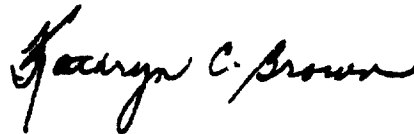
[Handwritten signature]

Mr. George F. Manser, Jr.

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Your letter has been placed in the official public record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45). I appreciate your interest and views on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathryn C. Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Kathryn C. Brown
Chief
Common Carrier Bureau

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

7-10-98
DATE

CCB
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MEMORANDUM FOR:

FCC 33

FROM: SUE J. SMITH *SJS*
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF AGENCY LIAISON

SUBJECT: REFERRAL OF WHITE HOUSE BULK MAIL

Thank you for your continued hard work in ensuring responses to the Presidential letters and inquiries forwarded to your agency. The volume of mail that the President and Mrs. Clinton receive still remains unprecedented.

Please return any misreferrals to me at the following address:

Ms. Sue J. Smith
Director, Office of Agency Liaison
Room 6, OEOB
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 202/456-7486.

Thank you very much.

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670 Equitation Lane
Felton, DE 19943-2728
July 3, 1998

President Clinton
The White House
Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Your Honor:

This letter is to protest the assessments being placed on my telephone bill. These assessments occur each and every time I use my Telephone Credit Card which is for my personal use NOT business purposes as if that was the case I would be able to deduct as an expense.

There is also a surcharge on my long distance carrier calls. These carriers advise this duty was put on them by the F.C.C. to collect this tax imposed for improvements to the telephone companies infrastructure so they could develop the internet.

When these charges were questioned, there was a statement with regard to supplemental charges to improve the rural phone systems and for the great and wonderful INTERNET. Sir; I am in the rural area and my service is no better today that it was years ago. Second, I can't afford to buy a computer so I can use the INTERNET, so it is useless to me and the only benefit is to the business community. I am sure people like yourself did not object to collect this outrageous tax because you benefit from it, not me or 90% of the population of this great country that can't afford it either.

Presently my opinion is that I am being ripped off as I have no benefit from the INTERNET; I do not own or can I afford to own stock in the telecommunications or internet industries and I protest these taxes being imposed upon me. Then I read in the news that congress is exploring ways to tax the Internet, the Internet is nothing but a big tax grab on everyone with a telephone.

I am disabled and on a fixed income and being abusively taxed for something I can't use. I beleive the Internet cost should be the burden of the Telecommunications Industry not mine and that of each and every telephone subscriber, let those who use the internet pay for its development.

Sincerely,

George F. Manser Jr.
George F. Manser Jr.